

Attorney Docket: 622/43633C3  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: RUDOLF WAGNER ET AL.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: 1732

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: L. Tentoni

Title: PROCESS FOR HANDLING WORKPIECES AND APPARATUS  
THEREFOR

Preliminary Amendment

**Box Non-Fee Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification, claims and abstract prior to the examination of the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all of the claims presently in the application and substitute new claims 27-44 as follows:

27. Workpieces produced by a process of loading said workpieces into a treatment facility; surface treating said workpieces in at least one vacuum station of said facility grouped as a station batch; and controlling at least the timing of said process by a freely programmable process controller unit.

28. Workpieces produced by a process which comprises loading said workpieces into a treatment facility having at least